



# XIS Express

## Christmas Edition

December 19, 2008

## THE CHAOS OF CHRISTMAS BY MICAH LUND

Ah the chaos of Christmas! Everyone looks forward to this season of mad shopping, last minute decorating, and a restaurant's worth of cooking to do. Late on Christmas Eve after you've wrapped all those presents and put them under the recently ornamented tree, maybe you'll be able to relax.

Christmas is so stereotypically a period of relaxing family time and gift giving. Through postcard vistas we see snowy scenes of happy children playing with their snowman, or of a family joyfully singing carols around their tree. Maybe you've seen the one of a snow covered cottage with its rosy golden lights inviting you in to a feast of turkey and pies, and a mother smiling like the dinner had effortlessly come into being at the snap of her fingers.

"But Christmas isn't that hectic!" you somehow convince yourself. "We've done it this way all our lives!" And out you go again into the cold night air, which happens to be very cold, but never snowy. Why are you going into the cold night air? You forgot to get a present for your boss's wife's third cousin!

Christmas wasn't always so hectic, when snowmen were first being built in the middle Ages in Europe, Christmas was a solemn and peaceful holiday, in which one would go to Christ's Mass (thus the word Christmas) and would pray and reflect. There still is time to reflect in our modern day Christmas however, like that time you are desperately trying to decide whether to get the green toy or the blue toy for your son, and you have to

pause and reflect on what your son's favorite color is, right in the middle of the toy section, with other Christmas shoppers streaming around you.

Decisions like this abound in the Christmas season. Another decision is whether to choose a real Christmas tree or a fake one, where to put it. Of course you chose the fake one because you'll save money in future Christmases, and you won't have the hassle of cleaning up, and clearing out a dead tree.

Maybe you are one of the those people that gets overly stressed during the Christmas season, and thus begins to dislike it. But probably you are one of the people that, even though Christmas is chaotic, you realize that it is the season for giving. Every moment you spend cooking or shopping is a gift of time to the person that receives the gift or eats the food. Even if you are dog-tired and have to sleep in on Christmas Day, the day will be all the more enjoyable and relaxing when you realize the stress and hard work was worth it. The season couldn't be better when you celebrate it with family and friends while reflecting on the deeper things of life.



# 'Twas The Week After The Christmas

A PARODY BY TORI STEWART

'Twas the week after Christmas, when all through the  
tree

No ornaments were shining, not even me.  
The bells were drooping by their branches with dread,  
In despair that the Christmas tree soon would be dead.

We were all nestled quite sad in our spots,  
While visions of dust-bunnies disturbed our thoughts.  
All us in the attic, and I in my casing,  
Would settle our bells for a long year's effacing.

When throughout the needles there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my twig to see what was the matter.  
Up to the top I flew like a flash,  
Knocked over the angel who fell with a clash.

The moon on the slush of the half-melted snow  
Cast shadows of midnight on objects below.  
When, what to my wondering eyes should unfold,  
But a colossal sleigh, and eight hungry wolves.

With a pale young driver, so cunning and slick,  
I knew in a moment it was not St Nick.  
More sneaky than snakes his beasts they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!

"Now Smasher! Now, Pincer! Now, Mincer and Toxin!  
On, Bullet! On, Torpid! On, Fawner and Blitzen!  
To the top of the tree! To the ends of the halls!  
Now take away! Take away! Take away all!"

As hot fires that before the wild hurricane devour,  
When they meet with an obstacle, eat with such power.  
So throughout the house the beasts they ravaged,  
With the sleigh full of Toys, and that mean ole' savage.

And then, through the frenzy, below me I saw  
The prancing and pawing of each massive claw.  
As I closed up my eyes, and was curling up tight,  
Out the chimney we dashed into the night.

I was crammed between toys, from head to foot,  
And my paint all tarnished with ashes and soot.  
A bundle of Toys I had piled on my back,  
And I looked like a coal lump, all covered in black.

His eyes-how they bore down! His smile how evil!  
His hands were like spiders, his teeth like the devil's!  
His crooked mouth was pursed like a bow,  
And the skin of his face was as waxy as tallow.



A stump of a pipe he held tight as a post,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a ghost.  
He had a gaunt face and a scrawny stomach,  
That tensed when he cackled, as he wreaked his havoc!

He was ghastly and thin, a right Stygian young man,  
And I cowered when I saw him, in fear of his wrath!  
A twitch of his eye and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had my future to dread.

He spoke not a word, but flew us to his lair,  
And emptied the stockings, then snipped off my beard.  
And laying his finger aside of my mouth,  
Said, "Yes, nutcrackers do fine here in the south!"

He sprang to his bench, to his team gave a whistle,  
"Work on this one, but be careful, he's brittle!"  
Then I heard him exclaim, as he moved on to the lights,  
"What Nick would say if he saw such a sight!"

# TEN GIFTS FOR YOUR PARENTS BY MICAH LUND

*Christmas is right around the corner and your parents are probably the hardest people to buy presents for. Instead of skipping out on giving them a special gift this Christmas; here are ten things to get for your parents:*

1. Paint a family portrait on a white ceramic plate or cup for your parents. If you are not good at painting, you can try getting a photograph printed on it as a customized Christmas gift that every parent will be proud of.
2. A homemade card or photo album is also a very meaningful gift to give your parents. Parents will like anything you put time and effort into.
3. A scarf is a great present that will keep your parents warm in the winter
4. Mothers usually appreciate natural soaps, lotions, or candles.
5. A good gift for your Father could be a book, a new computer mouse or mouse pad, or a fancy pen.
6. A board game or deck of cards is a gift that the whole family can have fun with or, a make a homemade game especially for your family.
7. A simple family photo in a nice frame is a gift that any parent who likes to show off their children will love.
8. A basket filled with your parent's favorite snacks. If you want to put extra effort in, you could bake cookies and cake for the basket.
9. A flash drive, or a digital photo frame would be cool, and useful gifts for mom or dad.
10. Your parents will like anything that you give them, because it's really the thought that counts. Homemade gifts show that you gave time and effort for them, and that makes the gift all the more special.



## Upcoming Events

### December 2008

- 19 -XIS Christmas Program
- 24 -Christmas Eve
- 20 -Hanna Metzner's Birthday
- 21 -Joseph Hwang's Birthday
- 22 -Hae-Ju Kim's Birthday
- 23 -Xue Yin Wang's Birthday
- 25 -Christmas Day (No school)  
-Ashish Trivadi's Birthday
- 26 -Christmas holiday (No school)
- 31 -New Year's Day Eve

### January 2009

- 1 -New Year's Day (No school)  
-Sophia Durbin's Birthday
- 10 -Arianna Metzner's Birthday
- 11 -David Wang's Birthday  
-Maddie Stewart's Birthday
- 15 -Emma Wang's Birthday
- 19 -Keera Stewart's Birthday
- 19-February 6: Chinese New Year (No school)
- 20 -Abrielle Winsor's Birthday
- 23 -Dong hwan Kim's Birthday  
Hanna Han's Birthday
- 25 -Timothy Kim's Birthday



*Looking for a place to relax?*

Known for their friendly staff and great Western food, the relaxing environment of the Village is ideal for chatting with friends, hitting the books, or taking some alone time. While there, try some of their famous authentic Mexican food and American burger. Come by the Village Cafe and check it out for yourself!

No. 32 Shi Da Lu (opposite Bank of China) • 地址: 师大路32号 (中国银行对面) • 电话: 029 8522 2150 • 网址: [www.villagecafe.com.cn](http://www.villagecafe.com.cn) • Monday-Sunday 8:30am-11:00pm • Western Food & Drinks • Free Wi-Fi 无线上网 • Friendly Staff

PLEASE DIRECT ANY COMMENTS OR  
QUESTIONS TO [XISXPRESS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:XISXPRESS@GMAIL.COM)

# COOLEST LOOK OF THE MONTH: DARREN DIEP BY JOY KIM



*Darren Diep is an eight grader whose individual style caused me to pick him for this month's Look of the Month. With his baggy hoody, loose t-shirt, and baggy gray sweatpants, he really stood out. Sadly, Darren left XIS in December.*

XIS: So Darren, how do you feel about leaving?

DD: Awesome... Heartbroken

XIS: How long have you been in XIS?

DD: Um... eight, no ten months.

XIS: Will you miss Xi'an?

DD: Yeah, of course. I love it here, and the facilities are awesome here.

XIS: What are you looking forward to in Australia?

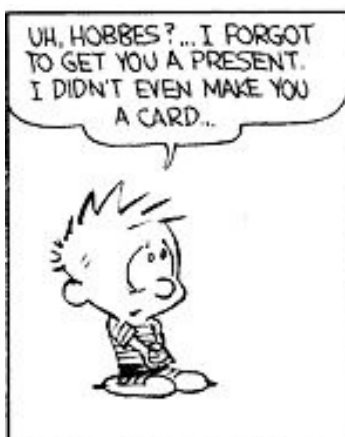
DD: Yeah, summer vacation. (Laughs)

XIS: What will you miss the most in China?

DD: Cheap things (Laughs again) and study hall in the XIS library.

XIS: Thank you, bye

DD: Bye.



## **The Lighthouse Centre** A Family Centre and Children's Library

The Lighthouse Centre would like to invite you to its OPEN HOUSE on December 20, 2008, from 2-5 pm.

The Lighthouse Centre, here to serve the community, offers programmes to encourage a love for learning, and provides resources and classes to encourage the growth of healthy families.

### **For children**

- Children's English library
- Library programme, all in English

### **For adults**

- Dating Safe-Dating Well classes
- Pre-marriage counselling
- Marriage classes
- Prenatal classes
- Parenting classes
- Adult library

### **For families**

- Monthly family events

We are located in a storefront property in the WeiFengHuaYuan complex in Mingdemen. Look for us on the west side of their south gate on ZhangBaLu. Come join us for some family fun!

Business hours beginning on December 21st:  
3 pm to 9 pm Sunday  
9 am to 9 pm Tuesday through Saturday



# HIGH SCHOOL IDEA COMPETITION

A new year is on its way! With 2009 just around the corner, lots of ideas are processing through our minds!

This month your job is to come up with the best invention of 2009. It can be the most useful, the most grand, the most environmentally friendly, the most handy, the smallest, the biggest, or even the most complex. Describe your invention in a half-page-typed essay and show the world your brilliance! Miss Vikki will judge how creative you are.

The winner will receive five extra credit points in Miss Vikki's class!

Here are some guidelines:

1. Any entry containing reference to drugs, sex, racial discrimination or alcohol will immediately be eliminated from the competition.
2. A minimum of one paragraph is required, and your essay's maximum length cannot exceed half of a typed page.
3. You must turn in your writing to Joy Kim before the January 16, 2009.
4. Sorry, only seventh grade and up will be included in this competition.

Congratulations to last month's poetry competition winner! Kharis Lund has received five points extra credit in Mrs. Liu's class! Here is Kharis's winter poem:

## **Winter has Come**

By Kharis Lund

The snow is falling softly, softly  
I look out to the sky so lofty  
The children laughing with pure joy  
Winter has come, oh boy!

The church bells ring, the wreaths are  
hung  
The Christmas songs in church are sung  
Home again, tired and cold but happy  
Winter has come, yippee!

My breath I see in the cold morning air  
We snuggle on the couch without a care  
I spill my hot cocoa, what a big mess!  
Winter has come, oh yes!

The wrapping paper from the toys  
The happy squealing of girls and boys  
We burst forth carols to the night sky  
Winter has come, oh my!

## XIS Warriors Give Back: Helping the Homeless

The X.I.S. High School Council has decided to do community service for the first time. We want to provide 75 beggars and homeless people with winter clothes to keep them warm this season. Not only will this be a great way for XIS and the foreign community to give back to the local community, but it will also be a great way to express our gratitude to our host city of Xi'an!

### **How can you help? Simple!**

- Bring donations of money to Rachel in the XIS office.
- Donating slightly worn winter apparel to the school:
  - Hats
  - Gloves or mittens
  - Scarves
- Bring your empty plastic bottles for our recycling project!



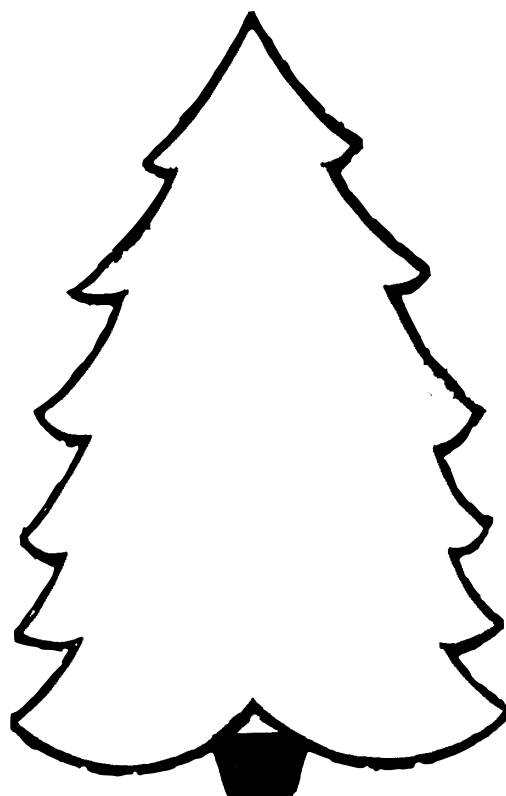
# FUN PAGE

## Christmas Word Search



Christmas	Holiday	Happy	Merry	Reindeer
Santa	Tree	Lights	Star	Holly
Bells	Gifts	Snow	Carol	Candy
Red	Green			

## Decorate Your Tree!



## Help the elf get Santa ready!

